

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W
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R 201510Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4171
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT ELAB IS
SUBJ: HISTADRUT AND MAPAM REACTIONS TO CABINET CRISIS

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 8506 (B) TEL AVIV 8507 (C) TEL AVIV 8496

1. HISTADRUT SOURCES TOLD EMBASSY TODAY THAT SECRETARY GENERAL MESHEL REACTED FAVORABLY TO RABIN'S DECISION EXPELLING THE NRP AND CALLING FOR EARLY ELECTIONS. DECISION RELIEVES HISTADRUT OF THE PROBLEM OF HAVING TO HOLD ELECTIONS PRIOR TO KNESSET ELECTIONS. HISTADRUT PLANS TO HAVE ITS ELECTIONS SIX WEEKS AFTER KNESSET ELECTIONS, WHICH ARE NOW EXPECTED IN MAY. RABIN REPORTEDLY INFORMED MESHEL RIGHT AFTER DECISION TO DISMISS NRP CABINET MEMBERS HAD BEEN REACHED.

2. HISTADRUT LEADERS FEEL THAT ADVANCEMENT OF ELECTION CAMPAIGN WILL REDUCE TENSIONS AND ARGUMENTS WITHIN LABOR PARTY AND ALIGNMENT AND THAT LABOR WILL CLOSE RANKS. THEY EXPECT ALSO THAT HARD DECISIONS ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES WILL HAVE TO BE POSTPONED, AND THAT DEBATE OVER CONCESSIONS ON INDEPENDENT LIBERAL PARTY (ILP)
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ON HEALTH INSURANCE AND COMPULSORY ARBITRATION WILL BE DROPPED. (COMMENT: IF THIS IS TRUE, ILP WILL HAVE TO CARRY THROUGH WITH ITS THREAT TO LEAVE THE GOVERNMENT OR BE CONFIRMED PRETTY MUCH AS A GROUP OF TOOTHLESS TIGERS.)

3. A MEMBER OF MAPAM CENTRAL COMMITTEE TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER

THAT HIS PARTY IS NOT LIKELY TO BLOT ALIGNMENT, BUT ON CONTRARY HOPES
A FUTURE COALITION WITHOUT NRP WILL BECOME MORE FLEXIBLE
ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH ARABS.
THIS SHOULD PERMIT MODIFICATION OF 14 POINT AGREEMENT WHICH
NOW IS BASIS OF COALITION. (COMMENT: MAPAM HAD LONG VIEWED
14 POINT AGREEMENT AS IMPORTANT OBSTACLE TO MOVING TOWARD SERIOUS
NEGOTIATING INITIATIVE.)
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Message Attributes

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